# Cedar River Instream Flow Commission
***Final Minutes***

## SPU Water Quality Lab

February 4th, 2012

**Organizations/Members Present:**

- Seattle Public Utilities -- Tom Fox, Rand Little, Karl Burton
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- Larry Schick, Lynne Melder
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife -- Hal Beecher
- Washington Department of Ecology -- Buck Smith
- NOAA Fisheries – Randy McIntosh
- US Fish and Wildlife Service -- Tim Romanski
- Seattle City Light -- Liz Ablow
- Guests:
  USGS -- Chris Magirl, Andy Gendaszek, Christiana Czuba, Chris Konrad
  Wild Fish Conservancy--Nick Gayeski

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**I. Call to Order:** Tom called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.

**II. Approval of Agenda:** Approved as presented.

**III. Approval of Draft Minutes:** Draft minutes from January were approved as presented.

**IV. News and Notes:** No news this month.

**V. Real Time Water Management:**

***Hydrologic Conditions for Tolt and Cedar:*** Chester Morse Reservoir elevation is approximately 1555.9' and spilling to restore the flood pocket. Releases are currently at 700 cfs and reservoir inflows are close to the 90 percentile after the recent rainstorm. Snowpack is approximately 110% of normal for this time of year. The rainstorm on Sunday delivered 3.5" of rain at Chester Morse, which caused flows in the river to peak at 2780 cfs in Renton on Monday January 30th. Flows below Landsburg peaked at approximately 1900 cfs. Prior to the heavy rains on Sunday, releases were approximately 400 cfs but, after the wet forecast, releases were decreased to 200 cfs where they remained for the

duration of the storm. Because of soil saturation from the melting snow and rain in the last week, 1" of rain caused flows to increase by 467 cfs compared to the typical increase of 250 cfs per inch of rain. Tom plans to keep flows up around 2200 cfs in order to restore the flood pocket. Actual flows were quite a bit lower than estimated unregulated flows that were estimated to have peaked at approximately 4000 cfs. All downramping rates and guaranteed flows over the last month were met.

***Lake Washington:*** The elevation of Lake Washington is currently at 20.3'. The Corps has started construction of the erosion control project below the locks. The project has been given an extension for the construction period and the project now has a completion date of March 15th. The ladder will remain closed during the day until construction is complete.

***Fish Update*:** Rand said that the inclined plane trap started fishing on January 22nd but the snowstorm and subsequent ice storm caused the crew to stop fishing. The high flow event also caused a break in fishing the trap. Trapping resumed on Monday and Kelly said that approximately 70% of the trapped sockeye fry still had their yolk sacs, which indicates that sockeye redd scour occurred during the high flow event.

***Forecasts and Water Supply Outlook:*** Larry reported that last night's storm delivered between 0.1" and 0.5" of rain. Snowpack in the mountains is between 95% and 110% of normal for this time of year. The short term forecast calls for a dry period caused by a high pressure ridge off the coast. Models are predicting between 5 and 7 days of dry and warmer than normal weather but the duration may end up being longer than that. This year's La Nina has had a weak influence so far, although January was cooler and wetter than normal. The long term forecast is calling for above normal precipitation and cooler than normal temperatures for the next couple of months.

## VI. Supplemental Studies:

***Otolith Study*:** Nick Gayeski gave a presentation on phase 3 of the Cedar River Chinook Otolith Study. The results were very similar to the results from phase 2 of the study and the determination of river reared fish and lake reared fish was generally successful. For broodyear 2003, fish leaving the river as parr/presmolt (river reared) survived to adulthood at approximately 4 times the rate as fish leaving the river as fry (lake reared). When combined, the results for 2002 and 2003 brood years overlap substantially indicating that determination of juvenile life history type is only possible within brood years. Nick would like to take these results and apply the technique to the full collection of otoliths in order to determine survival for each brood year in the collection. The IFC will need to think about the results and decide what the next step should be.

***Peak Flow Adaptive Management Study***: Chris handed out copies of: the conceptual model, a list of specific monitoring metric tasks and some key questions to evaluate those tasks. The key questions had multiple choice answers rated from 1 to 5. The scoring was used as a way to measure each monitoring task in terms of 1) relationship and sensitivity to peak flow, 2) benefits for fish, 3) potential to impart changes to peak flow management, and 4) the proper level of priority in the overall monitoring plan. Chris went down the list of tasks and asked the IFC to provide a score for each question. Chris and Christiana recorded the scores in a matrix as they were determined. The results will be used to justify the tasks chosen in the monitoring plan. The USGS team will evaluate the chosen tasks in terms of cost and logistics and forward the results to the IFC

## VII. March's IFC Meeting:

1) Roger Peters will give a presentation on the Macro/mesohabitat Chapter of his Juvenile Chinook Habitat Electivity Study.

2) Discussion regarding the Peak Flow Adaptive Management Study's monitoring plan.

3) Discussion of the future of the Chinook Otolith studies.

## VIII. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM